REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action of August 10, 2010. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, and 12, and 14-15 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1, 3-7, and 12, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Gustafson et al. (USPN 6,442,284).

The Claims Are Not Anticipated
By Gustafson et al.

Claim 1 calls for dividing a whole image, that contains at least one flat region, into a plurality of regions. Signatures bits are generated from each of the regions, including a region which contains flat content. The signature bits are included in a signature which is embedded across a portion of the image that is larger than one of the regions. The signature is embedded such that the signature bits, included in the signature, can be extracted even if the region with flat content has been replaced by tampering and thus the image is protected from tampering in the region of flat content.

The Examiner alleges that Gustafson et al. clearly discloses generating signature bits from each of the plurality of regions and generating a signature according to those generated signature bits. The Applicants respectfully disagree, the Gustafson reference is directed to watermark detection and not signature generation. There is no evidence in the cited Gustafson reference that the system of FIGURE 6 generates a signature and, to an even greater degree, generates a signature which includes signature bits from each of a plurality of regions.

The Examiner alleges that Gustafson et al. clearly discloses embedding the generated signature. The Applicants respectfully disagree. The Gustafson reference, as noted above, does not disclose generating a signature. Thus, is incapable of embedding the generated signature. The Gustafson reference, discloses that the system selects regions of high variance in luminance to have a high probability of containing the watermark. The selected regions of high luminance variance are further processed or filtered to detect the watermark.

Claim 12 calls for a non-transitory computer readable medium for dividing a whole image, that contains at least one flat region, into a plurality of regions. Signatures bits are generated from each of the regions, including a region which contains flat content. The signature bits are included in a signature which is embedded across a portion of the image that is larger than one of the regions. The signature is embedded such that the signature bits, included in the signature, can be extracted even if the region with flat content has been replaced by tampering and thus the image is protected from tampering in the region of flat content.

The Examiner alleges that Gustafson et al. clearly discloses generating signature bits from each of the plurality of regions and generating a signature according to those generated signature bits. The Applicants respectfully disagree, the Gustafson reference is directed to watermark detection and not signature generation. There is no evidence in the cited Gustafson reference that the system of FIGURE 6 generates a signature and, to an even greater degree, generates a signature which includes signature bits from each of a plurality of regions.

The Examiner alleges that Gustafson et al. clearly discloses embedding the generated signature. The Applicants respectfully disagree. The Gustafson reference, as noted above, does not disclose generating a signature. Thus, is incapable of embedding the generated signature. The Gustafson reference, discloses that the system selects regions of high variance in luminance to have a high probability of containing the watermark. The selected regions of high luminance variance are further processed or filtered to detect the watermark.

Claim 14 calls for receiving a video image and dividing the video image, that contains at least one flat region, into a plurality of regions. Signatures bits are generated from each of the regions, including a region which contains flat content. The signature bits are included in a signature which is embedded across a portion of the image that is larger than one of the regions. The signature is embedded such that the signature bits, included in the signature, can be extracted even if the region with flat content has been replaced by tampering and thus the image is protected from tampering in the region of flat content.

The whole of the Gustafson reference is reticent to receiving a video image. Gustafson does disclose scanning an image and pre-processing the scanned image; however, Gustafson does not disclose video image.
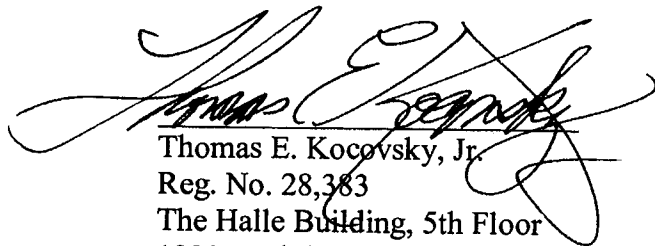
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-7, and 12, 14, and 15 distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr. at 216.363.9000.

Respectfully submitted,

Fay Sharpe LLP

Thomas E. Kocovsky, Jr.
Reg. No. 28,383
The Halle Building, 5th Floor
1228 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-1843
216.363.9000
tkkocovsky@faysharpe.com